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DOVER RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1952

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C.F. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BROOK HOUSE,

DOVER.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Dover Rural District for the year 1952.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 11,710. The birth rate was 14.9 per 1,000 of the population and shows a decrease of 1.2 compared with the rate for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 15.3. The death rate per 1,000 of the population was 10.1, which is 0.3 higher than in 1951. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.3.

Heart disease and cancer accounted for the majority of deaths from disease in the Rural District, a small proportion of the total deaths being due to accidents and other violence.

Infant mortality was 28.7 per 1,000 live births compared with 32.8 in 1951. The rate for England and Wales (1952) was 27.6. The incidence of infectious disease during the year was low and showed no special features.

During the year particular attention was paid to problems of drainage and water supplies, especially in the Parish of Capel le Ferne where it is hoped that several urgently required extensions of piped water will not be long deferred.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and to acknowledge the assistance received from the Senior Sanitary Inspector in preparing this report.

I have the Honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.F. LYNCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1953.



S E C T I O N   A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:- On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the East by the sea; on the South by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone, and on the West by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:-

Alkham, Capel le Ferne, Coldred, Denton, Guston, Hougham, East Langdon, West Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, River, Shepherdswell, St. Margaret's, Temple Ewell, Whitfield, Wootton.

Area (including inland water), 25,797 acres.

Population: (a) Estimated mid-year Home population 11,710

(b) Preliminary 1951 Census figures 10,493

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population of 11,710).

Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,202.

Rateable Value, £85,200.

Sum represented by a ld. rate, £345 9s. 7d.

Density of Population - Persons per acre, 0.45.

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EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

1. BIRTHS:

(a) Registered Live Births:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	80	86	166
Illegitimate	6	2	8
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	86	88	174

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population 14.9

Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population 14.2

Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population 0.7

(b) Stillbirths:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
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	4	6	10

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths) 54.3





## 2. DEATHS:

	Male	Female	Total
Registered	57	62	119
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			10.16

## 3. INFANT MORTALITY: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	-	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 29

## 4. SPECIALLY RECORDED DEATHS:

Cancer (all ages)	29
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

## 5. CAUSES OF DEATH IN YEAR 1952:

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	7	14
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	2	2
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	11	19
Coronary disease, angina	5	7	12
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart diseases	5	10	15
Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	5	-	5
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	4	10
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	-	3	3
Suicide	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1
All Causes	57	62	119



## 6. COMPARATIVE RATES:

	Dover Rural District		England and
	1951	1952	Wales
	(per 1,000 Home Population)		1952
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BIRTHS:			
Live Births	16.1	14.9	15.3
Stillbirths	0.09	0.85	0.35
DEATHS:	9.86	10.16	11.3
DEATHS:-	(per 1,000 Live Births)		
All Causes under 1 year of age	32.8	28.7	27.6
Enteritis and Dia- rrhoea under 2 years of age	5.5	-	1.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY:	(per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births)		
All Causes			0.72

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the local Hospitals' Laboratory Service as well as to the County Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water, etc., are carried out.

#### Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District and three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, provide appropriate facilities for general medical, surgical, maternity and infectious cases.

#### Nursing in the Home

The Kent County Council, as the administrative Authority responsible, provides this service in the Rural Area.

#### Clinics and Welfare Centres

The County Council as Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers and children of school age.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and of venereal disease.



## S E C T I O N C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supply

Some 96% of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. Of the sixteen parishes in the district, twelve are supplied by the East Kent Water Company, two by the Folkestone Waterworks Company and two by the Mid Kent Water Company. Two small areas at Alkham and Capel were still under consideration for a mains supply at the end of the year, and in view of the fact that samples of water taken from wells and rain water tanks showed evidence of contamination, further representations were made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to allow this work to proceed at an early date.

Sixteen reports on samples taken from the public water supply show that the water is quite satisfactory.

Four samples of water were taken from rain water tanks, and three from wells. In four samples there was evidence of recent contamination.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

There is one main sewerage system in operation in the area, serving part of Temple Ewell, otherwise sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

Number of houses on main drainage	34
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Number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	2,408
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Number of pail and chemical closets	760
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The main sewer to serve the Council Housing Estate at Temple Ewell and part of the village of Temple Ewell was under construction, and at the end of the year thirty four houses had been connected. The Council also have plans in course of preparation to extend the sewer to the remainder of the village.

The scheme to sewer Capel le Ferne has been deferred by the Ministry on account of the present financial position of the country.

No further progress has yet been made with the schemes for the sewerage of Whitfield, Lydden, Shepherdswell, St. Margarets and Ringwould.

#### Scavenging

The collection and removal of domestic refuse, the emptying of cesspools and collection of pails has been carried out by direct labour, and has worked very satisfactorily.

#### Salvage

This is under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who reports on the year's work as follows:-

Weights of material collected,	58 tons 17 cwt.
Amount received for the material,	£637





# Sanitary Inspection of the Area

- (1) Number of inspections made during the year, 1,760.
- (2) Number of notices served, Informal, 160; Statutory 11.
- (3) Nuisances and defects remedied during the year:

Drainage:	
(a) Reconstructed	10
Cesspools:	
(a) Repaired	2
(b) Emptied	1,333
Dampness	33
Roofs and Rain Water Pipes	21
Floors	11
Walls and Ceilings	12
Water Supplies	1
Miscellaneous	26

## Shops Act, 1950

Regular inspections of shops were made, and any necessary instructions given in regard to ventilation, temperature, lighting and sanitary accommodation. No formal action was necessary.

## Factories Act, 1937

### (i) Registered Factories:-

With mechanical power	23
Without mechanical power	22
Other pre ises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	<u>6</u>
	<u>51</u>

### (ii) Inspections:

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspect- ions</u>	<u>No. of written notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories with mechanical power	63	1	-
Factories without mechanical power	72	-	-
Other premises	<u>17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>152</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

### (iii) Defects:

Particulars	Found	Number of Defects		Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector by	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-				
Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	- 1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>- 1</u>	<u>-</u>





## Verminous Premises

Six complaints were received, and successful action taken to eradicate.

## Destruction of Rats and Mice

Gassing, trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

### No. of infestations found:

Rats, Major	5
Rats, Minor	121
Mice, Major	-
Mice, Minor	4

### Estimated Kill:

Rats	1,310
Mice	7
No. of rat bodies picked up	289
No. of mice bodies picked up	18

## Camping Sites

There are four sites registered in the district, for the summer months only, viz, Capel le Ferne 4. These are kept under regular supervision.

In November, a suggested standard as to number of caravans per acre, sanitary accommodation and water supply, etc., was submitted to the Council and approved. The proprietors of the caravan sites were notified of the work required to bring their sites up to this standard.

## S E C T I O N D

### HOUSING

Houses were inspected upon complaint, and notices served in the case of urgent repairs being required.

Ninety five Building Licences were issued, and four hundred and thirty inspections were made with regard to these.

During the year the Council's post war housing programme entailing the construction of 266 houses was proceeded with and at the end of the year 42 houses were completed and 30 under construction.

The 246 houses built under the post war housing schemes are as follows:

Alkham 4; Capel 14; Coldred 6; East Langdon 4;  
Guston 8; Hougham 8; Ringwould 38; St. Margaret's 54;  
Shepherdswell 50; Temple Ewell 30; Whitfield 22;  
River 4; Wootton 4.

Nine private enterprise houses were completed during the year, and thirty six were under construction.



Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	124
Number of inspections made for the purpose	189
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	16
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	11
Number of houses demolished	10

## S E C T I O N E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made regular visits to all registered premises.

(a) Number of Registered Distributors	7
(b) Number of Registered Dairies	1

#### Milk (Special Designations) Regulations:

The following licences were granted by the Dover Rural District Council:

Supplementary Pasteurised	1
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	1
Dealer's Pasteurised	8
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested	6

#### Meat and Other Foods

The slaughterhouses in the district were closed down at the outbreak of war, and the meat supply is now procured from the Government slaughterhouse and Wholesale Meat Supply Depot.

The following inspections of food shops were made:

1. Bakehouses	13
2. Butchers	7
3. Other food preparing places	39

#### Foodstuffs Condemned During 1952

Canned Goods	- 156 tins.
Meat	- 53 lbs. mutton.

#### Ice Cream

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1939 makes it compulsory for all premises used for the sale, or manufacture for sale of ice cream to be registered with the Local Authority.

Number of premises registered	26
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# Ice Cream

Five of these premises did not sell ice cream during the year.

Fifty nine samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The results were classified as follows:

Grade 1	40
Grade 2	11
Grade 3	7
Grade 4	1

## S E C T I O N F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### 1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) Notified during 1952 - By Age Groups (Corrected).

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Puerperal Pyrexia
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1 year	-	-	2	1	-
1 - 2 years	1	-	1	2	-
2 - 3 years	-	-	4	2	-
3 - 4 years	1	-	2	6	-
4 - 5 years	-	1	3	4	-
5 - 10 years	3	1	17	4	-
10 - 15 years	-	1	1	-	-
15 - 20 years	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	1	1
45 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	-	-
	5	4	30	20	2
Admitted to Hospital	4	-	-	-	1
Notification Rates per 1,000 Home Population	0.43	0.34	2.56	1.71	0.17





## 2. Diphtheria Immunisation

The scheme for the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria continued throughout the year under the administration of the Kent County Council and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information:-

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover, who during 1952 received:-

(a) Primary Inoculations	157
(b) Reinforcing Inoculations	156

Number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date:

<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>From 5-15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
561	1,530	2,091

## 3. Vaccination

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health the following information has been furnished in regard to the vaccinations against smallpox recorded in the Rural District of Dover during 1952:

Age at 31st December, 1952:-

	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1-4 years</u>	<u>5-14 years</u>	<u>15 and over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	52	36	9	5	102
Number re-vaccinated	-	2	6	34	42

## 4. Tuberculosis - Annual Statement of Cases of Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
(a) Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register as at 1st January, 1952	44	42	16	15
(b) Number of Cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for first time during year	2	5	1	-
(c) Restored to Register	-	1	-	-
(d) Added to Register otherwise than by formal notification	4	-	-	-
(e) Cases removed from Register during year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases)	2	4	-	1
(f) Cases on Register at end of 1952	48	44	17	14

During the year there were two deaths of un-notified cases of tuberculosis.

\* The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930 were revoked with effect from the 1st May, 1952, when the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, came into operation. By the new regulations the Medical Officer of Health was no longer required to maintain a Register of tuberculosis notifications, but in accordance with paragraph 4 of Ministry of Health Circular 6/52, the register in respect of the Dover Rural District was continued.





Analysis of new cases notified in 1952

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 -	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	-	-
15 -	-	1	-	-
25 -	-	3	1	-
35 -	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	-	-	-
55 -	-	1	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-
Total	2	5	1	-

ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN 1952 OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER:

Nil Return

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925:

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade

Public Health Act, 1936; Section 172:

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

Disinfection

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant and, where necessary, infected bedding and clothing is disinfected by arrangement with the Hospital Authority.

During the year four batches of clothing were dealt with in this manner.

Number of premises disinfected - 9.





